

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 COLOMB 00542 111118Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04  
NSAE-00 SIL-01 AID-05 CU-02 USIA-06 /044 W  
-----111121Z 006567 /21

P 111008Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6703

CONFIDENTIAL COLOMBO 0542

FOR NEA/RA HOLLY

E.O. 11652:GDS  
TAGS:ELAB, CE, PINT  
SUBJECT: AAFLI ACTIVITIES DURING UPCOMING ELECTION CAMPAIGN

REF: (A) COLOMBO 0387, (B) STATE 28705, (C) STATE 30827,  
(D) COLOMBO 0315

1. WE STILL BELIEVE THAT AAFLI PROGRAM SHOULD BE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED (REALISTICALLY, AFTER GARZA'S UPCOMING VISIT) AND RESUMED ONLY AFTER ELECTIONS, RATHER THAN AS AAFLI PROPOSES IN REFS B AND C. GARZA COULD EXPLAIN DISCREETLY TO HIS UNION CONTACTS DURING THIS VISIT THAT AAFLI WOULD NOT BE PLANNING IN-COUNTRY ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

2. THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN IS ACTUALLY WELL UNDERWAY IN ALL BUT NAME. WITH THE PROROGATION OF THE NATIONAL STATE ASSEMBLY (NSA) FEBRUARY 10 (SEPTEL), EVEN MORE TIME IS LIKELY TO BE DEVOTED TO PARTISAN POLITICS, WHATEVER THE DATES OF THE FORMAL DISSOLUTION OF THE NSA AND GENERAL ELECTIONS. IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY APPARENT THAT LEFTIST ELEMENTS WILL BE PLAYING A PROMINENT ROLE IN THE CAMPAIGN. THE TROTSKYITE LANKA SAMA SAMAJA PARTY, WHOSE STRENGTH DERIVES MAINLY FROM ITS URBAN TRADE

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UNION BASE, WILL BE ATTEMPTING A NATIONWIDE CAMPAIGN IN OPPOSITION TO BOTH MAJOR PARTIES. THE COMMUNIST PARTY/MOSCOW WING, EVEN IF IT DOES STAY IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S UNITED FRONT COALITION, IS STAKING OUT AN INCREASINGLY INDEPENDENT LINE AND WILL TAKE AN AGGRESSIVE ROLE IN THE CAMPAIGN. EVEN THE GOVERNING SRI LANKA FREEDOM PARTY IS NOT ABOVE RAISING THE CRY OF

FOREIGN INTERFERENCE (REF D) WHEN PRESSED TO THE WALL,  
AS INDICATIONS ARE THAT IT WILL BE DURING THE CAMPAIGN.

3. AAFLI REP GARZA IS DUE IN COLOMBO THIS WEEKEND;  
LABOR ATTACHE WILL MEET WITH HIM EARLY NEXT WEEK  
TO ATTEMPT TO IMPRESS UPON HIM THESE POINTS. WE WILL  
REPORT BACK ON HIS ATTITUDES AFTER THAT MEETING.

REED

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ELECTION CAMPAIGNS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977COLOMB00542  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 COLOMBO 387, 77 STATE 28705, 77 STATE 30827, 77 COLOMBO 315  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3346407  
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**Subject:** AAFLI ACTIVITIES DURING UPCOMING ELECTION CAMPAIGN  
**TAGS:** ELAB, PINT, CE, AAFLI  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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